(Rs. in crore)

Year	Short term refinance to SCBs & RRBs (maximum outstanding/ drawals)	Schematic refinance to all agencies	Subsidy under cold storage, rural godowns and on farm water management for increasing crop management for increasing crop production schemes
2002-03	6.17	119.62	5.68
2003-04	2.46	122.62	4.46
2004-05 (up to 28.2.2005)	1.15	218.69	3.17

Further, NABARD has sanctioned 437 projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Funds (RIDF) involving financial assistance of Rs. 503.42 crore to the NER during 2001-02 to 2003-04.

(b) During the year 2004-05, NABARD has sanctioned 112 projects under RIDF involving financial assistance of Rs. 70.00 crore to the States in NER. Under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, NER States have sought financial assistance in respect of 32 rural godowns schemes and 367 on farm water management schemes during the year 2004-05 and all the projects have been sanctioned.

Income tax to Gujarat Port Authorities

2849. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what purposes are served by applying the income tax to the minor ports of Gujarat;

(b) whether the Central Government have given any thought on adverse financial implications on the applicability of the income tax to Gujarat Port Authorities;

(c) how much revenue is expected to be targeted from Gujarat Port Authorities;

(d) whether the tax so collected will be utilized for development of vital port infrastructure particularly for Gujarat Minor Ports; and

(e) whether the Central Government are considering granting total exemption from Income Tax to the State Maritime Board at Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Prior to 1.4.2003, total exemption was available to local authorities under Section 10(20) including those authorities operating ports. *Vide* Finance Act, 2002, the scope of section 10(20) was restricted to certain specified local authorities. However, *vide* Finance Bill, 2005, it is proposed to amend section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act which, *inter-alia,* provides for a tax benefit (a 10 year tax holiday) for development, operation and maintenance of any infrastructure facility, including ports. Currently, this benefit is available only to an enterprise owned by a company registered in India or a consortium of such companies. The proposed amendment will extend this benefit to an enterprise owned by an authority or board or corporation or any other body established or constituted under any Central or State Act upon satisfaction of conditions laid down in Section 80-IA. The Maritime Board of State Governments operating ports may also take advantage of this provision.

(b) Since deduction of profits derived from an infrastructure facility including ports is proposed to be made available to enterprises owned by an authority or board or a corporation or any other body established or constituted under any central or State act also, it is expected that the State Maritime Boards operating ports would be cushioned against any adverse financial impact.

(c) Since the Gujarat Port Authorities are likely to avail of deduction under Section 80-IA, no specific revenue is targeted from the Gujarat Port Authorities in respect of the profits derived from operation of ports.

(d) Not applicable, in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) As in (a) above.

Non payment of loans by Industrialists

2850. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the top industrialists of India have become